Attorney Dkt. No.: 07129-0516

DT01 Rec'd PCHP1C5 2 3 DEC 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Kazumichi YAMAMOTO et al.

Title:

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SUSTAINED-RELEASE

COMPOSITION

Intl. Appl. No.:

PCT/JP03/007950 filed 05/24/2003

Filing Date:

12/23/2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: